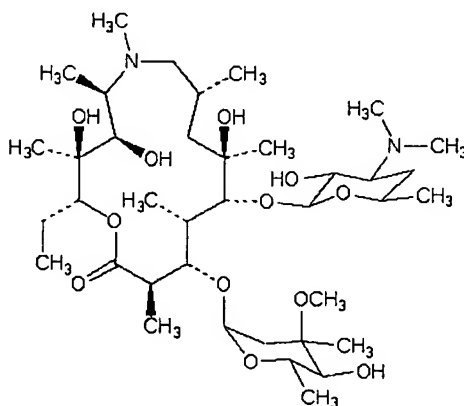
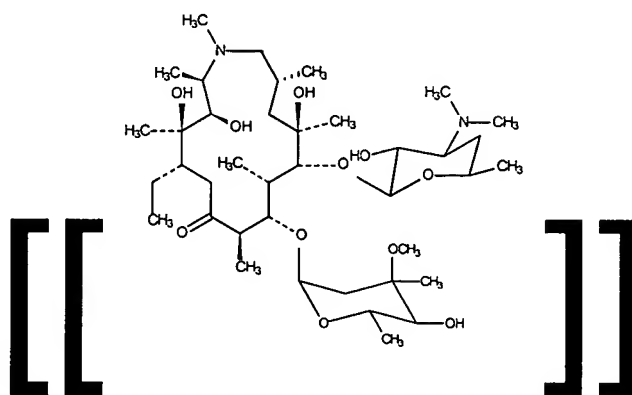


**In the specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph following the subheading "Background of the Invention" with the following amended paragraph:

Azithromycin, 9-deoxo-9a-aza-9a-methyl-9a-homoerythromycin A, having the formula



is a semi-synthetic macrolide antibiotic related to erythromycin A, useful for treating infections caused by susceptible microorganisms. This invention provides a new non-hygrosopic form of azithromycin, processes for its manufacture, and pharmaceutical compositions containing it.